

Department of Veterans Affairs

§21.376

“discontinued” or “interrupted” status, for any reason, except abandonment of training by the veteran without good reason;

(8) To report to a place of prearranged satisfactory employment or for a prearranged employment interview following completion of his or her program of vocational rehabilitation, when:

(i) There is no satisfactory opportunity for employment in the veteran's occupation within the jurisdiction of the facility which has jurisdiction over his or her residence, and

(ii) The veteran has a serious employment handicap.

(9) To return to his or her home, from which he or she was transferred at government expense to pursue training, when, upon completion of his or her course, satisfactory employment is not available;

(10) To return to the location from which he or she traveled without authorization because VA did not issue the necessary travel authorization on a timely basis.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

(c) *Approval of interregional transfer.* Interregional travel must be approved by the case manager.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(13))

§21.374 Authorization for travel of attendants.

(a) *Travel for attendants.* The services of an attendant to accompany a veteran while traveling for rehabilitation purposes may be provided when such services are necessitated by the severity of the veteran's disability. Attendants may only be used to enable a veteran to attend appointments for initial evaluation, counseling, or intraregional or interregional travel at government expense under §21.370 and §21.372.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

(b) *Attendants not employed by the Federal government.* (1) VA may authorize persons not in regular civilian employment of the Federal government to act as attendants. Payment of travel expenses for attendants will be authorized on the same basis as for the vet-

eran the attendant is accompanying. VA:

(i) Will furnish the attendant with common-carrier transportation, meal and lodging expenses; or

(ii) Will grant the attendant a mileage allowance in lieu of furnishing the assistance cited in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section.

(2) VA will not pay the attendant a fee if he or she is a relative of the veteran. A relative, for this purpose, is a person who by blood or marriage is the veteran's

(i) Spouse,

(ii) Parent,

(iii) Child,

(iv) Brother,

(v) Sister,

(vi) Uncle,

(vii) Aunt,

(viii) Niece, or

(ix) Nephew.

(c) *Attendant employed by the Federal government.* (1) VA may authorize a person in the regular civilian employment of the Federal government to act as an attendant. When assigned, the attendant:

(i) Will be entitled to transportation and expenses, or

(ii) May be allowed per diem in place of subsistence in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Travel Regulations (5 U.S.C. Chapter 57).

(2) VA will pay no fee to civilian employees of the Federal government who act as attendants.

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984; 50 FR 9622, Mar. 11, 1985]

§21.376 Travel expenses for initial evaluation and counseling.

When VA asks a disabled veteran to report to a designated place for an initial evaluation, reevaluation or counseling (including personal or vocational adjustment counseling), the veteran will travel to and from the place of evaluation and counseling at government expense. When a veteran, because of a severe disability, requires the services of an attendant while traveling, VA will authorize payment of travel expenses for the attendant under the provisions of §21.374.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

§ 21.380

PERSONNEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 21.380 Establishment of qualifications for personnel providing assistance under Chapter 31.

(a) *General.* Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, VA shall establish qualification standards for VBA personnel providing evaluation, rehabilitation, and case management services to eligible veterans under chapter 31, including:

- (1) Counseling psychologists;
- (2) Vocational rehabilitation specialists; and
- (3) Other staff providing professional and technical assistance.

(b) *Rehabilitation Act of 1973.* VA shall consider qualification standards established for comparable personnel under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, when setting agency standards.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

§ 21.382 Training and staff development for personnel providing assistance under Chapter 31.

(a) *General.* VA shall provide a program of ongoing professional training and development for staff of the VR&E Service engaged in providing rehabilitation services under chapter 31. The objective of such training shall be to insure that rehabilitation services for disabled veterans are provided in accordance with the most advanced knowledge, methods, and techniques available for the rehabilitation of disabled persons. The areas in which training and development services may be provided to enhance staff skills include:

- (1) Evaluation and assessment;
- (2) Medical aspects of disability;
- (3) Psychological aspects of disability;
- (4) Counseling theory and techniques;
- (5) Personal and vocational adjustment;
- (6) Occupational information;
- (7) Placement processes and job development;
- (8) Special considerations in rehabilitation of the seriously disabled;
- (9) Independent living services;
- (10) Resources for training and rehabilitation; and

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(11) Utilizing research findings and professional publications.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118)

(b) *Training and development resources.* For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section VA may:

- (1) Employ the services of consultants;
- (2) Make grants to and contract with public and private agencies, including institutions of higher learning, to conduct workshop and training activities;
- (3) Authorize individual training at institutions of higher learning and other appropriate facilities; and
- (4) Utilize chapter 41 of title 5, U.S.C., and related instructions to provide training and staff development activities on a group and individual basis.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(b))

(c) *Interagency coordination.* VA shall coordinate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in planning and carrying out personnel training in areas of mutual programmatic concern.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

§ 21.390 Rehabilitation research and special projects.

(a) *General.* VA shall carry out an ongoing program of activities for the purpose of advancing the knowledge, methods, techniques, and resources available for use in rehabilitation programs for veterans. For this purpose, VA may conduct research and development, provide support for research and development, or both conduct and provide support for the development and conduct of:

- (1) Studies and research concerning the psychological, educational, social, vocational, industrial, and economic aspects of rehabilitation; and
- (2) Projects which are designed to increase the resources and potential for accomplishing the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3119(a))